

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A one-piece connector and hub sub-unit for attachment to the barrel of a sample tube receiver, said sub-unit comprising:

a an integral first end, a second end, and a central portion between said first and second ends, said central portion being adapted for attachment to said barrel such that said second end is located within the barrel

said first end ~~defining a first piercing member~~ terminating in a blunted end piercing tip,

said second end adapted for receiving a ~~second and separate~~ hollow needle terminating in a sharpened piercing member tip,

said sub-unit defining an internal flow path extending between said blunted end and the second end so as to allow for fluid communication between said blunted end and a second piercing member when received by said second end[.].

said central portion including a hub with a plurality of fins spaced around said hub.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The sub-unit of Claim 1 wherein said ~~unit~~ sub-unit is molded from a thermoplastic material.

4. (Original) The sub-unit of Claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic material comprises polypropylene.

5. (Original) The sub-unit of Claim 1 wherein said central portion comprises annular threads for engagement with said barrel.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~sub-unit~~ unit of Claim 2 ~~8~~ further comprising a pair of caps enclosing said first and second piercing members.

8. (Currently Amended) A one-piece connector unit for attachment to the barrel of a sample tube receiver, said unit comprising:

a first end, a second end, and a central portion between said first and second ends, said central portion being adapted for attachment to said barrel such that said second end is located within the barrel

said first end ~~defining first piercing member~~ terminating in a blunted end piercing tip,

said second end ~~defining a second and separate~~ including a hollow needle terminating in a sharpened piercing member,

a flexible sleeve enclosing said hollow needle;

said unit defining an internal flow path extending between said first and second piercing members tips[;].

9. (Original) The unit of Claim 8 further comprising:

a removable cover enclosing said first piercing member; and

a removable cover enclosing said second piercing member.

10. (Original) The unit of Claim 9 wherein each of said covers comprises an open and a closed end, wherein said open ends face one another.

11. (Original) The unit of Claim 9 wherein said first end comprises a hub including a plurality of radial fins thereon and said removable cover enclosing said first piercing member comprising an inner wall, said inner wall including a plurality of slots for receiving said fins.

12. (Currently Amended) A sample tube receiver assembly comprising:

a barrel having an open proximal end for receiving a sample tube, and a distal end;

a one-piece connector unit ~~for attachment~~ attached to said barrel at said distal end of said barrel thereof;

said unit comprising a first end, a second end, and a central portion between said first and second ends, ~~said central portion being adapted for attachment to said barrel such that~~ wherein said second end is located within the barrel;

said first end ~~defining first~~ terminating in a blunted piercing member tip,

said second end ~~defining a second and separate~~ terminating in a sharpened piercing member tip,

a flexible sleeve enclosing said sharpened tip to prevent leakage from said tip.

said unit defining an internal flow path extending between said first and second piercing ~~members~~ tips.

13. (Canceled)